

cornbread, I guess, but you are not going to do very much on that kind of a diet. It's not going to do very much for the beef market. I was just talking to Senator Lamb this morning. He's been trying to sell cattle lately. That is not a very good experience either. The point I want to make is this, I believe \$235 is reasonable. I did not introduce a wild bill, did not introduce an enormous increase. I introduced what I thought was reasonable. I've talked to some businessmen. Some of them who originally opposed the idea now think it is probably a reasonable bill.

SENATOR LAMB PRESIDING

SENATOR LAMB: Thirty seconds, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would suggest that \$210 is not reasonable, and that we should go the \$235, that will reflect a 2.9 percent increase in premiums. I understand that. We are all going to pay it, but I think it is reasonable. I would ask you not to support Senator Goll's amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: At this point we would like to welcome a number of visitors, up in the north balcony. They are guests of Senator Hannibal, 56 fourth grade students from Montclair Elementary School in Millard, accompanied by sponsors. Would you young people stand and be recognized please. Welcome. The Chair recognizes Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise, first of all, to suggest to you that the Schmit amendment, which is being amended now by Senator Goll, is a good amendment. I thank Senator Schmit for reducing the minimum weekly benefit back to the \$49, as we had it or have it today. With regard to the Goll amendment, I must rise in support of the amendment. Maximum benefits, you will recall, increased in Nebraska in 1983. This body made a rather significant increase in maximum weekly benefits only two years ago. There was an 11 percent increase in benefits at that time. This is today, two years later, when times are not nearly as good as they were two years ago. Main street Nebraska is in trouble. I have letters, and so do many of you, from people who are telling me not to increase workers compensation benefits one bit, hold them where they are, we can't afford it, you are continually increasing our costs of doing business. With that in mind, I do support